

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1 through 6, 7 through 14, and 16 through 18 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A cleaning method for cleaning a developer container, comprising:

a blowing step of blowing air through an opening formed in said developer container at a first flow rate; and

a suction step of sucking air through the opening at a second flow rate, rate which is larger than the first flow [[rate;]] rate, to suck toner from the developer container to clean the developer container,

wherein ~~while~~ said blowing step and said suction step steps are being simultaneously carried out concurrently while supplying[[,]] ambient air ~~is permitted to enter~~ said into the developer container through an ambient air inlet.

2. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said the ambient air inlet is disposed at ~~the~~ a position opposite from said the opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of said the developer container.

3. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, further comprising a an inserting step of inserting an air nozzle into said the developer container.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 3, wherein in said blowing step the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said the air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of said the air nozzle.

5. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 3, wherein in said inserting step, ~~and one~~ first and second air nozzles are inserted into the developer container, and in said blowing step the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said the first air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of said the first air nozzle, and the air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the second air nozzle.

6. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 5, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

7. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and suction step are carried out simultaneously while said the developer container is rotated.

8. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step and said suction step are carried out simultaneously while reciprocating said the developer container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

9. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 1, wherein said blowing step is carried out after start of starting said suction step.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A recycling method for recycling a developer container, comprising:

a removing step of removing first and second used sealing members sealing first and second opening openings, respectively, provided in said the developer container;

a blowing step of blowing air through the first [[an]] opening formed in said developer container at a first flow rate;

a suction step of sucking air through the first [[an]] opening at a second flow rate, rate which is larger than the first flow [[rate;]] rate, to suck toner from the developer container to clean the developer container,

a filling step of filling a developer into said the developer container with developer; and

instead a mounting step of mounting said first and second new sealing members to seal said the first and second openings;

wherein wherein while said blowing step and said suction step steps are being simultaneously carried out concurrently while supplying[[,]] ambient air into the is permitted to enter said developer container through an ambient air inlet.

11. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said the ambient air inlet is said the second opening is disposed at a position opposite from said the first opening with respect to a longitudinal direction of said the developer container.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, further comprising a an inserting step of inserting an air nozzle into said the developer container.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said blowing step the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said the air nozzle at different positions with respect to circumferential direction of said the air nozzle.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 12, wherein in said inserting step, and one first and second air nozzles are inserted into the developer container, and in said blowing step the air is blown through a plurality of air blowing ports of the first air nozzle in directions perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said the first air nozzle at different positions with respect to a circumferential direction of said the first air nozzle, and the air is blown through an air blowing port provided at a longitudinal end of the second air nozzle in a longitudinal direction of the second air nozzle.

15. **(Original)** A method according to Claim 14, wherein a blowing rate of the first air nozzle is larger than a blowing rate of the second air nozzle.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and suction step are carried out simultaneously while said the developer container is rotated.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step and said suction step are carried out simultaneously while reciprocating said the developer container in a longitudinal direction thereof.

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method according to Claim 10, wherein said blowing step is carried out after start of starting said suction step.